

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 823

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson

February 17, 2011

An act to add Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) to Title 15 of the Government Code, relating to children's services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 823, as amended, Dickinson. Children's Cabinet of California.

Existing law, the California Early Intervention Services Act, requires the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide a statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, family-centered, multidisciplinary, interagency programs responsible for providing appropriate early intervention services and support to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

This bill would establish the Children's Cabinet of California to consist, *in part*, of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the head of each agency and department within the state that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the ~~well-being~~ *well-being* of, children, and would set forth its powers and duties, including ~~promoting and implementing information sharing, collaboration, increased efficiency, and improved service delivery among and within the state's child-serving agencies, departments, and organizations~~ *making recommendations to the Governor on ways to improve the delivery of services to children and families by making those services more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support efforts to carry out those activities. The bill*

would require the cabinet to annually report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) is added to Title 15 of the Government Code, to read:

CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN'S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA

96050. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) All state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children, from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood.

(b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this state.

(c) By working collaboratively with the Governor, the Legislature intends to do all of the following:

(1) Invest in the education and skills of our children and youth.

(2) Develop a cohesive ~~vision~~ vision and plan that ensures a long-term commitment to issues regarding children and youth.

(3) Align public resources serving children and youth to support their healthy growth and development.

(4) Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all government agencies that provide services to children and youth, and their families.

96051. (a) The Children's Cabinet of California is hereby established within state government. ~~The cabinet shall consist of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the head of each agency and department within the state that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the well being of, children.~~

~~(b) The cabinet shall promote and implement information sharing, collaboration, increased efficiency, and improved service~~

1 ~~delivery among and within the state's child-serving agencies,~~
2 ~~departments, and organizations.~~

3 *The purpose of the cabinet is to make recommendations to the*
4 *Governor on ways to improve the delivery of services to children*
5 *and families by making those services more responsive, efficient,*
6 *and effective, and to support efforts to carry out those activities.*

7 *(b) Members of the cabinet shall be appointed by, and serve at*
8 *the pleasure of, the Governor. The cabinet shall consist of all of*
9 *the following members:*

10 *(1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary*
11 *of California Health and Human Services, who shall be cochairs*
12 *of the cabinet.*

13 *(2) The head of each agency and department within the state*
14 *that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the well-being*
15 *of, children.*

16 *(3) Additional members that may be appointed at the will of the*
17 *Governor, include the Lieutenant Governor, the First Spouse, the*
18 *Director of Finance, or any other ex officio member the Governor*
19 *deems necessary.*

20 *(c) Members of the cabinet shall receive no compensation for*
21 *their services, except that they may be reimbursed for actual travel*
22 *and related expenses in accordance with state policy.*

23 *(d) The work of the cabinet shall be guided by the Governor*
24 *and the cabinet cochairs.*

25 *(e) The cabinet shall be responsible for all of the following:*

26 *(1) Commencing operation and meeting for its organizational*
27 *session by March 1, 2012. Thereafter, the cabinet shall meet at*
28 *least six times per year.*

29 *(2) Appointing working groups, as needed, to further the work*
30 *of the cabinet to address specific issues. Working groups shall*
31 *consist of at least one cabinet member and may include members*
32 *of upper level management within the agencies and departments*
33 *within the state that provide services for, or have jurisdiction over*
34 *the well-being of, children.*

35 *(3) Identifying at least one upper level management staff person*
36 *within each department or agency who shall function as a liaison*
37 *between the cabinet and the department or agency, and to be a*
38 *point of contact to address cross-jurisdictional issues in an*
39 *efficient, effective, and expeditious manner.*

1 (4) *Providing recommendations to the Governor on a regular*
2 *basis, including, but not limited to, a report to the Governor and*
3 *the Legislature by October 31 of each even-numbered year,*
4 *notwithstanding Section 10231.5. The report shall address*
5 *priorities described in subdivisions (f) and (g), and shall be*
6 *distributed to the Governor, all state agencies and departments,*
7 *and the Legislature, including, but not limited to, the Assembly*
8 *Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review and the*
9 *Senate Committee on Governance and Finance, notwithstanding*
10 *Section 9795.*

11 (f) *It is the intent of the Legislature that the immediate goals of*
12 *the cabinet include all of the following:*

13 (1) *Developing a plan to maximize California's share of federal*
14 *funds for programs that support California's children, including,*
15 *but not limited to, recommendations on the most efficient and*
16 *effective use of those funds.*

17 (2) *Assessing the efficient and effective delivery of existing*
18 *programs and improving the alignment of state and local resources,*
19 *including, but not limited to, the elimination or consolidation of*
20 *duplicative services, where appropriate.*

21 (g) *It is the intent of the Legislature that, in addition to activities*
22 *set forth in subdivision (f), the ongoing goals of the cabinet include*
23 *all of the following:*

24 (1) *Developing and implementing a shared and cohesive vision*
25 *using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family*
26 *outcomes in this state.*

27 (2) *Developing a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the*
28 *shared and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a*
29 *long-term commitment to children and youth issues and shall align*
30 *all public resources to serve children and youth and their families*
31 *in a manner that supports the healthy growth and development of*
32 *children. The plan shall prepare the children and youth to be*
33 *responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce.*
34 *The plan shall include a continuum of services that will benefit*
35 *children from prenatal care through services for youth in transition*
36 *to adulthood.*

37 (3) *Establishing and monitoring indicators and benchmarks of*
38 *child well-being, and utilizing these data for evaluation and*
39 *planning. This may include, but need not be limited to, developing*
40 *and implementing measurable outcomes for each state department,*

1 agency, and program that are consistent with the strategic plan.
2 This may include establishment of a baseline measurement for
3 each outcome and regularly reporting on the progress made toward
4 achieving the desired outcome.

5 (4) Promoting and implementing data sharing, collaboration,
6 increased efficiency, and improved service delivery among and
7 within the state's agencies, departments, and organizations that
8 serve children.

9 (5) Coordinating with other state and local coordinating bodies
10 to support a seamless system of services for children.

11 (h) In the conduct of its work pursuant to subdivisions (e), (f),
12 and (g), the cabinet shall be informed by persons who can provide
13 the best knowledge, research, and expertise from individuals and
14 organizations, including, but not limited to, parents, children,
15 youth, educators, school nurses, public officials, faith-based
16 organizations, community-based organizations, philanthropic
17 organizations, local educational agencies, colleges, universities,
18 health care providers, nonprofit organizations, welfare directors,
19 mental health directors, probation officers, and other organizations
20 and individuals as needed to inform the work. The cabinet may
21 further coordinate with these persons as needed to better
22 coordinate services for children.